

What is claimed is:

S-1 1. An image processing method for obtaining a layout image signal representing a layout image, in which a plurality of person images are laid out, from a plurality of original image signals, each of the original image signals representing a person image, in which a face pattern of a person is embedded, the method comprising the steps of:

i) detecting face information from each of the original image signals, said face information representing a position and/or a size of the face pattern of the person in the person image represented by each original image signal,

ii) performing a face pattern normalizing process on each of the original image signals and in accordance with said detected face information, a plurality of normalized image signals being obtained from said face pattern normalizing process, and

iii) laying out a plurality of images, which are represented by said normalized image signals, in a predetermined layout, whereby the layout image signal representing the thus formed layout image is obtained.

S-2 2. A method as defined in Claim 1 wherein said face pattern normalizing process is performed by utilizing affine transformation.

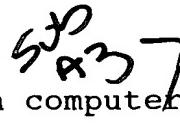
S-3 3. An image processing apparatus for obtaining a layout image signal representing a layout image, in which a

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plurality of person images are laid out, from a plurality of original image signals, each of the original image signals representing a person image, in which a face pattern of a person is embedded, the apparatus comprising:

- 5 i) detection means for detecting face information from each of the original image signals, said face information representing a position and/or a size of the face pattern of the person in the person image represented by each original image signal,
- 10 ii) normalization means for performing a face pattern normalizing process on each of the original image signals and in accordance with said detected face information, a plurality of normalized image signals being obtained from said face pattern normalizing process, and
- 15 iii) editing means for laying out a plurality of images, which are represented by said normalized image signals, in a predetermined layout, and obtaining the layout image signal representing the thus formed layout image.

20  4. An apparatus as defined in Claim 3 wherein said face pattern normalizing process is performed by utilizing affine transformation.

25  5. A recording medium, on which a program for causing a computer to execute an image processing method has been recorded and from which the computer is capable of reading the program, the image processing method comprising obtaining a

layout image signal representing a layout image, in which a plurality of person images are laid out, from a plurality of original image signals, each of the original image signals representing a person image, in which a face pattern of a person
5 is embedded,

wherein the program comprises the procedures of:

i) detecting face information from each of the original image signals, said face information representing a position and/or a size of the face pattern of the person in
10 the person image represented by each original image signal,

ii) performing a face pattern normalizing process on each of the original image signals and in accordance with said detected face information, a plurality of normalized image signals being obtained from said face pattern normalizing
15 process, and

iii) laying out a plurality of images, which are represented by said normalized image signals, in a predetermined layout, whereby the layout image signal representing the thus formed layout image is obtained.

20 6. A recording medium as defined in Claim 5 wherein
said face pattern normalizing process is performed by utilizing affine transformation.